

F 44

No 67

Hollinger
pH 8.5
Mill Run F03-2193

*Library of Congress,
from Samuel A. Green.*

CERTAIN GRANTS OF LAND MADE IN THE
YEAR 1684, NOW WITHIN THE LIMITS OF
NASHUA, N. H.

AT a meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, held in Boston, on Thursday, November 8,
1894, the following remarks were made:—

Dr. SAMUEL A. ^{bott}GREEN called the attention of the members
to a collection of manuscript Plans, drawn at an early period
in the history of the Colony, by Captain Jonathan Danforth, a
noted surveyor, which were given to the Library perhaps as early
as the summer of 1816 by John Farmer, the well-known anti-
quary of New Hampshire, and a Corresponding Member of this
Society. For the most part they relate to tracts of land lying on
the banks of the Merrimack River or in its neighborhood. One
of these Plans represents a parcel of land lying north of Salmon
Brook and south of the Nashua River, and running back from
the Merrimack westward about two miles, and includes the
territory now occupied by the thickly settled part of the city
of Nashua, New Hampshire. It gives the house-lots of Thomas
Clarke and John Sollendine, and the site of a house and barn,
and of a saw-mill on Salmon Brook, perhaps three quarters of
a mile from its mouth, besides showing the grants made to Mr.
Clarke and Mr. Sollendine, and to Joseph Knight and Chris-

topher Temple, in the second division of lands at Old Dunstable, on September 10, 1684. This Plan contains some notes in short-hand written by Mr. Danforth, which our associate William P. Upham, Esq., — an expert in such matters, and the author of “A Brief History of the Art of Stenography” (Salem, 1877), — a year or two ago kindly deciphered for me. In order that these notes may be available hereafter to persons interested in the subject, they are now communicated for publication in the Proceedings. The following is a copy of Mr. Upham’s letter: —

NEWTONVILLE, MASS., January 27, 1893.

DR. SAMUEL A. GREEN, *Librarian*.

DEAR SIR, — I send you herewith my rendering of the short-hand entries on the Dunstable Plan. Words or spaces within brackets indicate uncertainty or illegibility.

The characters are the same as in the system of Theophilus Metcalfe, published in 1645. This system, sometimes slightly modified, was much used for more than a century. It is very nearly the same as that of Hull’s short-hand Diary (*Archæologia Americana*, Vol. III. p. 279).

Edward Holyoke, President of Harvard College 1737–1769, used the same system, as appears by a manuscript copy of a book containing it given by him to Nathaniel Appleton, February 12, 1742. Many of the sermons of the eighteenth century (specimens of which may be seen at the Essex Institute in Salem) were written with the same characters.

Samuel Parris, minister at Salem Village, used them in taking down, by order of the court, the examinations of those accused of witchcraft in 1692. These examinations, written out in full from his short-hand notes, and so attested by him, are still preserved in the Court House at Salem; and it is to his skill in the use of these characters that we are indebted for the most graphic and evidently truthful account of those extraordinary scenes.

Thomas Blowers, minister at Beverly 1701–1729, used the same system.

Metcalfe’s book was the first published short-hand work containing the



ingenious idea of denoting a particular vowel between two consonants by the relative position of the second consonant character.

These old stenographic systems, so called, have been almost universally superseded by the modern method of phonography.

Very truly yours,

WM. P. UPHAM.

Joseph Knight	2 ^d division	{ 400 440
& Christo: Temple	476	

Laid out to Joseph Knight and Christopher Temple 440 acres of land for their 2d division in Dunstable upon Wa[tane]nok Neck it being part of the land which was appointed for the saw mill lot: bounded on the West by Joseph [Hasel]: 420. the line between them running N. 48 degrees W: the S. W. corner is a pine standing [about] 4 pole on the S. W. side a little brook: [from] thence the line runs N. 34 degrees E: 163: pole to m^r Clarks line which bounds it on the East: this line runs N. 55 W: 86 pole to a pine [marked] C: from thence it runs N. 31: W: one mile which comes to Nashua river: pine: C: at the N. end it is bounded by Nashua river 228 pole by a crooked line: and 42 pole by a litle brook that runs into Nashua river: at the S. end it is bounded [on] land not yet disposed of: laid out: 10. 7^m 84 by Jonathan Danforth surveyor:

Laid out to m^r Thomas Clark of Boston the brazier: in Dunstable township 23 acres of land for a houselot [lying] upon Wa[tane]nok plain: bounded by Merimak river N. E: 16 pole: by Francis Cook on the S: the line between them runs S: W: 234: pole bounded by m^r John Solindine on the N: by a highway [S. W.] both side lines [are parallel]: the bound tree at Merimak between Cook and [] is a black oak.

Also laid out to him for his 2d diuision 190 acres of land upon the same plain by m^r Samuel Whiting farm upon Samon brook Southward: 219 pole in a crooked line bounded on the S. E. by a highway: [the most] Southward angle is a pine marked with C. and from thence the line runs N. 55 W: 236. to a pine marked C: on the N. W: it is bounded by John Solindine: 184 pole: on the N and Eastward: it is bounded by land [formerly] laid out to Christopher Temple and [] [the last] lines running according to a plot taken of the same by Jonathan Danforth [Surveyor]

Laid out to m^r John Solindine in Dunstable township upon Wa[tane]nok plain: 23 acres of land for a houselot: bounded by Merimak river on the N. E: 16 poles: by [m^r] Clark Southward: the line between them running S. 85 W. 234 poles bounded N. ward by land granted Zakariah Long: the N. E. corner is a [] oak marked C standing upon the bank of Merimak: both the side lines are [parallel] on the S. W. it is bounded by a highway: 16 pole [the] S. W. [bound] is a stake:

Also laid out to him for his 2d. diuision 190 acres of land upon [] is the land called the saw mill lot: bounded by Nashwa river 436 by [a] and by Perrys Cove: 60 pole: on the West bounded by Joseph Knight and Christopher [] one mile: the line between them running N. 31 W: a pine tree marked C for a Southward bound: and another pine marked C standing by the bank side of Nashwa river: on the S. E. by m^r Clark 184: all which is [] plot taken of the same by Jonathan Danforth surveyor.
10. 7^m 1684

The word "Watanenok," as applied to a neck of land and a plain in Mr. Upham's rendering of the short-hand, is a name once given to the Nashua River. In Dr. Shurtleff's edition of the Massachusetts Colonial Records (IV. Part II. 569), under the date of October 15, 1673, there is a reference to "Nashaway or Watananock River," which appears in a grant of land made to the Artillery Company of Boston.

A letter from John Farmer to the Rev. Dr. Abiel Holmes, Corresponding Secretary of the Society, dated at Amherst, New Hampshire, August 3, 1816, and printed in the Proceedings (I. 255, 256), contains a list of Plans which the writer considers "worthy of preservation." It is not stated in so many words that he intended to give them; but inferentially he did intend so to do, though perhaps at a later period. At any rate most of these surveys are now in the Library; still a few are missing. The description of them in the letter is so vague that their identification is somewhat difficult. The Plan, now the subject of these remarks, is listed under the general

title: "Several Plans of Lands on Nashua and Cochecho Rivers."

There is reason to think, from a letter to Dr. Holmes, written September 22, 1827, on the files of the Corresponding Secretary, that "A Plan of Billerica, 1658," mentioned in Mr. Farmer's list, was given at that date.



0 014 014 891 A

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 014 891 A



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Hollinger
pH 8.5
Mill Run F03-2193